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Sixty-seventh session

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its twenty-fifth special session*

Geneva, 19 to 26 March 2012

I. Opening of the session

1. The session was opened by Mr. Mothae Anthony Maruping (Lesotho), President of the Trade and Development Board.

2. Opening statements were made by Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD; the representative of Switzerland, speaking on behalf of JUSSCANNZ; the representative of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking on behalf of the Asian Group; the representative of the European Union; the representative of Nepal, speaking on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group; the representative of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the African Group; the representative of Panama, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC); the representative of the United States of America; the representative of Tunisia; the representative of Japan; the representative of China; the representative of Mexico; the representative of Egypt; the representative of Cuba; the representative of Bangladesh; the representative of the Russian Federation; and the representative of Belarus.

3. The Secretary-General stated that the upcoming UNCTAD XIII in Doha was going to be one of the most significant conferences that the United Nations system would hold since the global economic and financial crisis. He noted that issues of capacity-building needed to be linked to the creation of decent jobs, and that harnessing the knowledge and expertise of all participants at the Conference was essential. Dr. Supachai warned that unemployment levels had increased by 3 per cent on average throughout most countries, and that more alarming developments were on the horizon in this regard. The issue of sustainability through inclusive

* The present document is an advance version of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its twenty-fifth special session, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 19 to 26 March 2012. It will appear in final form, together with the reports of the fifty-fourth executive session, the fifty-fifth executive session and the fifty-ninth session of the Board, as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 15* (A/67/15).

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growth, together with environmental considerations, would need to be at the heart of the coming discourse on trade and development. He added that there were great discrepancies which persisted between countries. The Secretary-General ended by stressing that multilateral processes must continue strongly and collectively, reflecting global unity and an inclusive multilateral system, in order to achieve common goals.

4. Several delegates noted the document "Review of management and administration in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)" (JIU/REP/2012/1), prepared by the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). At the request of several delegations, the item "Deliberations on Joint Inspection Unit Report and further institutional matters" was included in the provisional agenda, in the document "Supplementary list to the provisional agenda" (TD/443/Add.2). A verbal presentation of the JIU Review at UNCTAD XIII in Doha was also requested. While there was consensus that this was a subject important to all the membership, several delegations indicated that they would not be in a position to engage in discussing such an important subject until they had received the final report in the required languages with sufficient delays for consideration by their capitals.

5. Many delegates felt that the negotiations for the outcome document for UNCTAD XIII were not proceeding quickly enough.

II. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

(Agenda item 1)

6. The Board adopted the provisional agenda contained in document TD/B(S-XXV)/1 (see annex I).

III. Organization of the work of the thirteenth session of the Conference

(Agenda item 2)

Selection, by drawing by lot, of the country that will head the seating pattern at the thirteenth session of the Conference

(Agenda item 2 (a))

7. In accordance with established practice, Papua New Guinea was drawn by lot to be first in the alphabetical order to be used for seating arrangements at UNCTAD XIII.

IV. Substantive preparations for the thirteenth session of the Conference

(Agenda item 3)

8. The President of the Trade and Development Board, speaking in his official capacity as Chair of the Preparatory Committee on the substantive preparations for

UNCTAD XIII, presented to the Board a report on the progress of substantive preparations for the Conference. He noted that the Committee had held a series of meetings since its establishment by the Trade and Development Board at the Board's fifty-eight session in September 2011, and was scheduled to continue meeting until 13 April 2012. He noted that very few paragraphs had been agreed upon, and called on member States to work constructively together to ensure a successful outcome for UNCTAD XIII. He said that the host country, Qatar, had shown a commitment to the process, and expressed his hope that member States would not disappoint their hosts. He noted that new approaches were needed to expedite the negotiations. He also presented the report of the hearing with civil society, which took place on 7 March 2012. The Board took note of the President's report on the substantive preparations for the thirteenth session of the Conference.

V. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters

(Agenda item 4)

A. Preparations for the review, by the thirteenth session of the Conference, of the lists of States annexed to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)

(Agenda item 4 (a))

9. The membership of UNCTAD currently stands at 194, as reflected in document TD/INF.222. The list will be forwarded to the Conference for its endorsement.

B. Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

(Agenda item 4 (b))

10. There were no additional intergovernmental bodies for consideration by the Board.

C. Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

(Agenda item 4 (c))

11. There were no additional non-governmental organizations for consideration by the Board.

D. Provisional calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2012 and draft schedule of meetings for 2013

(Agenda item 4 (d))

12. The Board approved the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2012 and the draft schedule of meetings for 2013 as contained in document TD/B(S-XXV)/CRP.1.

VI. Adoption of the report of the Trade and Development Board

(Agenda item 6)

13. The Board authorized the Rapporteur to prepare the report on its twenty-fifth special session under the authority of the President.

Annex I

Agenda for the twenty-fifth special session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
2. Organization of the work of the thirteenth session of the Conference:
   (a) Selection, by drawing by lot, of the country that will head the seating pattern at the thirteenth session of the Conference;
   (b) Outstanding organizational matters.
3. Substantive preparations for the thirteenth session of the Conference
   • Report of the Preparatory Committee
4. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
   (a) Preparations for the review, by the thirteenth session of the Conference, of the lists of States annexed to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX);
   (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board;
   (c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board;
   (d) Provisional calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2012 and draft schedule of meetings for 2013.
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report of the Trade and Development Board

Annex II

Attendance[1]

1. Representatives of the following States members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Benin
Botswana
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Cape Verde
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Estonia
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Honduras
Hungary
Indonesia
India
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lebanon
Lesotho
Libya
Lithuania
Madagascar
Malaysia
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Netherlands
Nigeria
Oman
Panama
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Singapore
Solomon Islands
South Africa
Spain

[1] For the list of participants, see TD/B(S-XXV)/Inf.1.

Sudan
Swaziland
Sweden
Thailand
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Tunisia
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

2. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

European Union

Organisation internationale de la Francophonie

Organization of the Islamic Conference

South Centre

3. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the session:

World Intellectual Property Organization

World Trade Organization

4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General category

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development

Ingénieurs du monde